

CLAIMS

1. A handwriting recognition system comprising:
means responsive to input analogue signals representative of movement of a
5 handheld writing device;
sampling means to provide signals representative of the acceleration of the
writing device in at least x axis and y axis channels at a predetermined capture
sampling rate; and
filtering means to remove dc level components and to provide smoothing of
10 the output whereby signals representative of movement of the pen over a period are
supplied to a classifier for comparison with a template representative of characters
formed.
2. A handwriting recognition system as claimed in claim 1, in which the
15 classifier uses a hidden Markov model for comparison purposes.
3. A handwriting recognition system as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which
the sampling means, filtering means and classifier are implemented in a digital
computer environment.
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4. A method of analysing signals from a moving handheld device, the method
comprising sampling signals at a predetermined rate, passing signals through a
bandpass filter to remove dc level and excess acceleration components, sampling the
filtered output to provide a series of vectors representing the position of the handheld
25 device at periodic intervals and using a classifier to compare the sample sets with
predetermined templates to determine the character for output.